(e) Efforts being made on an ongoing basis to improve our trade in the international market include participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, exchange of delegation at both Governmental and business level, establishing Joint Study Groups and Joint Task Force, exchange of information etc.

Indo-Swiss bilateral trade

2583. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Switzerland has shown interest to explore an FTA with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the current Indo-Swiss bilateral trade; and

(d) what are the details of sectors where Switzerland has shown interest for cooperation with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is presently no proposal from Switzerland to explore FTA with India.

(c) During the calendar year 2005-06 Indo-Swiss bilateral trade was to the tune US$5.3 billion (April-Dec. 2005) of which India's exports were about US$0.3 billion and Switzerland's exports to India were about US $ 5 billion.

(Source:- Director General Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata)

(d) Switzerland has shown interest in cooperation with India in sectors such as engineering including micro engineering, medical devices, textiles, special protection clothes, agro-processing, tourism, infrastructure and environmental protection technology (waste disposal) and cooperation with Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Duty on Indian tea in Pakistan

2584. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Tea is subject to 10 percent import duty by Pakistan whereas imports from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh enjoy zero duty;